

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05

DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

INFO ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

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PASS OAK RIDGE LAB, OAK RIDGE, TENN FOR I. SPIEWAK;
ERDA WASHDC FOR SIEVERING/AIA; ERDA GERMANTOWN FOR
D. BAUER/NRA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: FRENCH TECHNICAL EFFORT ON NON-PROLIFERATION
ISSUES

1. ADVANTAGE WAS TAKEN OF I. SPIEWAK'S (OAK RIDGE
NATIONAL LABORATORY) PRESENCE IN PARIS TO DISCUSS
WITH CEA THEIR CURRENT TECHNICAL NON-PROLIFERATION
EFFORTS. CEA DISCUSSIONS WERE LED BY B. BARRE, TECH-
NICAL ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PECQUER.

ALSO PRESENT WERE M. CHABRILLAC, HEAD OF APPLIED
MATHEMATICS AND REACTOR STUDIES IN CEA'S LWR
DEPARTMENT, D. CHAVARDES, OFFICE OF THE DELEGUE FOR
NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS, AND MR. BRISBOIS, IN
CHARGE OF HTGR AND MSR STUDIES.

2. ABOUT 100 PEOPLE (INCLUDING PART TIME PARTICIPANTS)

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REPORTEDLY ARE INVOLVED IN THE ABOVE STUDIES. THIS
EFFORT STARTED BEFORE THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE AND IS
EXPECTED TO CONTINUE DURING THE INFCE STUDY (POSSIBLY
AT AN INCREASED RATE). NO EXPERIMENTAL WORK IS
INVOLVED EXCEPT FOR SOME "NEW LOOKS" AT CO-PROCESSING.
BASIC PHILOSOPHY IS THAT FRANCE HAS NO TIME AND MUST
PROCEED WITH ITS PROGRAM. THUS, FOCUS IS ON WHAT

COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE NON-PROLIFERATION, WHILE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR PROGRAM WHICH AIMS AT AN LMFBF CAPACITY OF 8-10,000 MW(E) BEFORE THE YEAR 2,000. (IT APPEARS THAT ONE OF THEIR DILEMMAS IS THAT THEY BELIEVE

THAT THEY WILL NEED A CAPACITY OF 8,000 MEGAWATTS TO JUSTIFY SUFFICIENTLY LARGE FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES FOR DEMONSTRATION OF THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF LMFBF'S.)

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERION IN THEIR CURRENT STUDIES IS TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY. THEIR EARLY THOUGHTS ARE THAT "THERE MAY BE NO COMPLETE FIX", BUT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE DELAYS.

4. THEIR REVIEW AND EVALUATION EFFORTS INCLUDE: (1) IMPROVED FUEL UTILIZATION IN ONCE THROUGH LWR'S; (2) LOW ENRICHMENT HTGR'S AND THEIR FORMER HTGR THORIUM CYCLE EFFORT; (3) ENERGY CENTERS; (4) BREEDERS WITH MIXED OXIDE CORES AND THORIUM BLANKETS (INVOLVING STUDIES OF A CORE WITH INTERNAL CONVERSION OF 1; (5) CO-PROCESSING; (6) PRE-IRRADIATION OF FUEL AND (7) ACTINIDE DESTRUCTION IN BREEDERS.

5. THEY HAVE NO EFFORT ON HEAVY WATER REACTOR EVALUATIONS SINCE THEY CARRIED OUT EXTENSIVE EVALUATIONS OF THIS CYCLE PRIOR TO THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH LWR'S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR CONCLUSION WAS THAT THIS CYCLE COULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE (THEY WILL DETERMINE IF SOME OF THE REPORTS ON THIS EFFORT CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO US).

6. ACCELERATOR AND OTHER ADVANCED CONCEPTS DO NOT MEET THEIR CRITERION OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND THEY PLAN NO EFFORT ON THESE EXCEPT TO FOLLOW THE EFFORTS OF OTHERS. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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